

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified Application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the Application.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 810, 13, 14 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Davidovits (U.S. Patent No. 3,643,015). The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Davidovits in view of page 25, lines 22-26 of the current specification. The Examiner rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Davidovits in view of Emmel (U.S. Patent No. 4,483,589). The Examiner rejected claims 6, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidovits in view of Aizaki et al. (Japanese Published Application JP2001091849A). The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 15 as being obvious from Davidovits in view of Guerra (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,166), claims 18 and 19 as being obvious from Davidovits in view of Guerra and Torimatsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,223), and claim 16 as being obvious from Davidovits in view of Hori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,191,809). Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims obviate these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Each of independent claims 1, 9 and 18 is now limited to recite 1) a revolver which facilitates switching among a plurality of objective lenses, 2) the connecting portion of the outer frame member is integrally connected with the revolver, and 3) the objective holder holds the objective frame in such a manner that the objective frame is movable.

Such a structure permits the objective frame to be movable relative to the entire optical apparatus, to allow for relative movement of the objective lens inside the objective lens unit. The objective frame is held so that it is movable, and the outer frame member is provided with a connecting portion to be integrally connected with the revolver. That is, the optical apparatus and the outer frame member are integrally connected with each other, and the outer frame member and the objective lens are configured to be movable relative to each other.

In contrast, according to Davidovits, the outer frame member 66 and the optical apparatus are connected with each other via the connecting section 67. However, the outer frame member 66 and the optical apparatus are designed to be moved relative to each other.

Of the cited references, only Emmel positively describes a revolver. However, Emmel merely discloses that the revolver makes a plurality of objective lenses to be replaceable with each other.

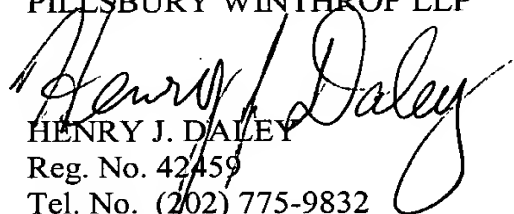
Therefore, whether considered individually, or in combination with the other recited references, Davidovits does not teach or suggest the claimed structure that the objective frame is movable relative to the outer frame member that is integrally connected with the revolver. Therefore, claims 1, 9 and 18 and all claims dependent therefrom are now in condition for allowance.

Applicant's representative urges the Examiner to contact him at the below-noted number if it may help advance the prosecution of this case.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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